

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application, claim 14 being canceled herein. Claims 1 and 9 are the only independent claims.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either one of U.S. Patent No. 4,759,854 to Wilson and U.S. Patent No. 3,941,698 to Weis.

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 have been allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 In response to the rejection of claim 9, applicant has amended claim 9 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 14, which has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 9 as amended is equivalent to claim 14 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the main claim (claim 9) and any intervening claim (none). Pursuant to the Examiner's indication, claim 9 as amended herein is allowable.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1 and 9, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The claim amendments, if any, made herein are made without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue additional subject matter in a separate continuation or divisional application.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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